

THE DUTCH GALLERIED WINDMILL AT BAD BEDERKESA

GUIDED TOUR THROUGH THE VARIOUS MILL FLOORS



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Introduction / The Sack-filling Floor

Dear Guest,

On behalf of our local *Society for Urban Improvement* we welcome you most cordially and now invite you to join us in a tour through the various mill floors. Our society has taken care of this mill since 1990, the owner of which is the town of Geestland. As early as the 16th century a bock windmill on the same site was mentioned in Bremen's historical records, though it was probably built earlier. In 1881 the last bock mill was struck by lightning and burnt down and the then owner, one Hinrich Reysen, rebuilt the present mill as a Dutch galleried type. Here we are talking of a mill of the most modern kind, where a wind rose automatically turns the cap and thus the sails into the wind. The sails of the present mill are fitted with lattice frames, which replaced the earlier, centrally adjustable louvres. Independent of the wind, mills can be operated by muscle strength and the street name "Pferdemühlendamm" (approx. Horse-mill Way) rather suggests that there were once horse-mills in Bederkesa. Working models of the types mentioned can be seen on the right-hand side of the sack-filling floor, where at a glance the technical details of the various types are displayed.

The Sack-filling Floor

At the front end of the sack-filling floor, a miller's crest carved in granite has been let into the wall. Next to this you will see a blue **dust mill**, with which in former times crushed grain was cleaned in preparation for milling. In the final corner we see a hand-operated "**groats-mill**" which is at least 250 years old and was formerly used in farmyards. As already mentioned, we are standing on the sack-filling floor; it is called this because on this level the milled material from the grinding process on the next floor slid down the square **flour chute** next to the stairs, and was filled into a sack. You can also see here a **millstone crane** and the **bed-stone** from the old grinding process encased in the ceiling. A few steps farther brings us to the **electric pulverizer**, installed in 1960 by the last miller and used by him until his retirement in 1990. Dating from 1997, additional exhibits of the miller's trade are shown here; they include an **oat crusher**, a **weighbridge** and a **machine for cleaning semolina**. Right next to the exit to the mill you will notice a sack attached to a chain which probably belongs to a still functioning **electric sack hoist** that was used to raise sacks to the upper floors.

You may now take the stairs and proceed to the next floor.